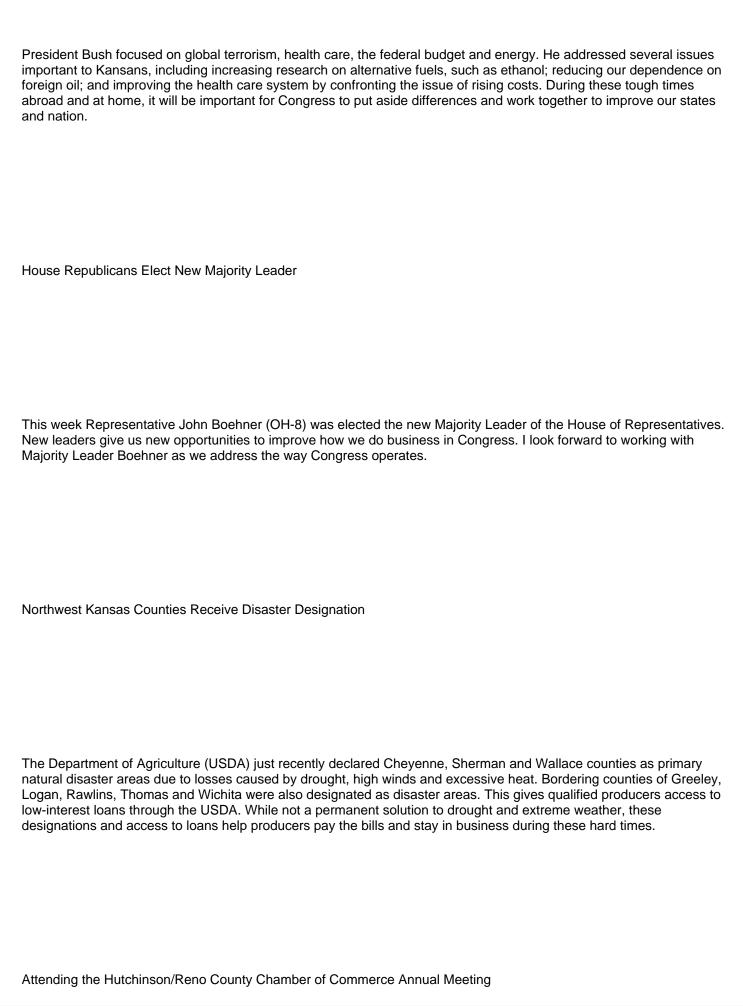
2/06/2006 This Week in Congress

This Week in Congress
February 6, 2006
Dear Friend,
Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Today I am traveling to North Carolina for the first of ten field hearings the House
Committee on Agriculture is conducting across the country to review the 2002 Farm Bill and prepare for the next Farm Bill in 2007. I hope you find this newsletter useful.
President Bush Addresses Congress for State of the Union
On Tuesday, I returned to Washington, D.C., for the beginning of the 2006 congressional session. President George W.
Bush addressed Congress and the nation in the annual State of the Union speech.
The United States Constitution states, "The President shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State o
the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." President George Washington delivered the first speech of this kind on January 8, 1790. The State of the Union gives the Presider
an opportunity to reflect on the past while presenting his goals for the future to Congress, the American people and the world.



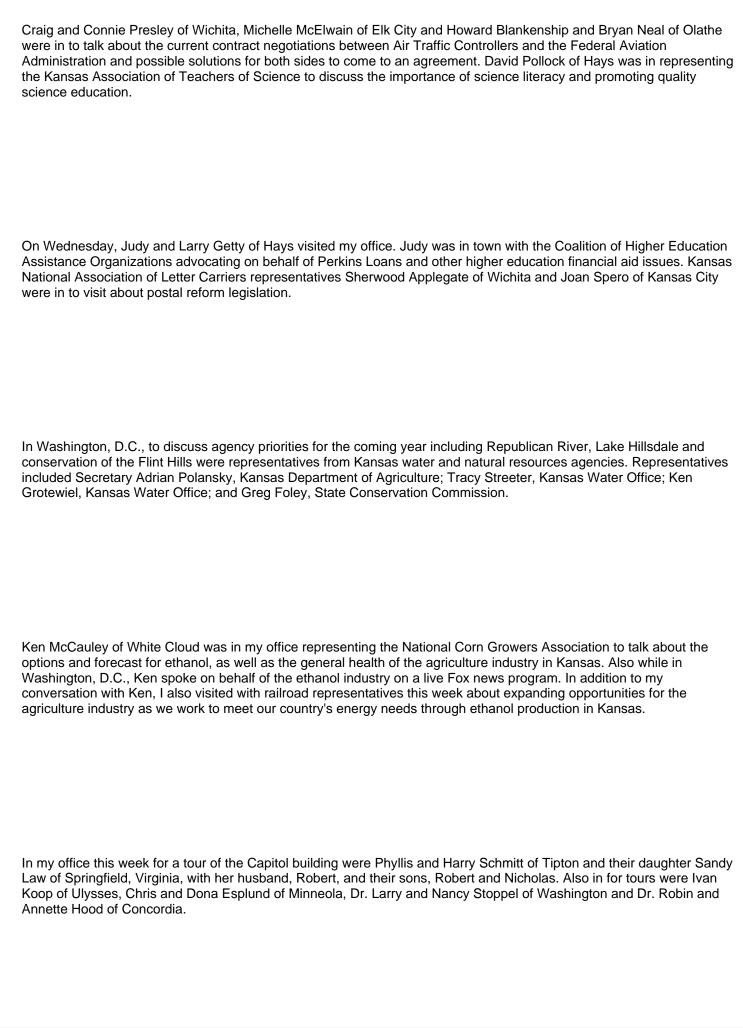
On Monday evening, I attended the annual Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce meeting. The Honorable Deanell Reece Tacha, Chief Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, served as the keynote speaker and spoke about our duty as citizens to preserve our democratic institutions of government for future generations of Americans. Chief Judge Tacha is a native Kansan, and in 1985 was nominated by President Reagan to the Tenth Circuit based in Denver. She was promoted to Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit in 2001, a position she holds to this day at her chambers in Lawrence. Most recently, Judge Tacha's name was mentioned in legal and political circles as a potential nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Also at the meeting, Kirk Johnson, my District Director, was installed as the new board chairman for 2006. Kirk has been instrumental to the success of my office, and I have confidence he will use that dedication and record of success to better his community throughout this year. From Hope to Paradise: Continuing My Big First Listening Tour As part of my Big First Tour, I was in Pretty Prairie, Strong City and Sylvan Grove last week. Emporia State University President Kay Schallenkamp joined me while I was in Strong City. President Schallenkamp recently announced she will be leaving Emporia State to take a similar position at Black Hills State University. It is bittersweet seeing President Schallenkamp return to her home state of South Dakota. She has not only been a close advisor to me on a wide range of issues, but she has also been a great leader in Kansas and has made a tremendous difference at Emporia State. I wish her all the best in her new position. It will be a challenge to replace her. On Thursday I will make stops in Leoti in Wichita County, Tribune in Greeley County and Sharon Springs in Wallace

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County. Next Monday I will be in Madison in Greenwood County. The tour stops scheduled for today in Decatur and

Norton Counties have been postponed due to the House Agriculture Committee Farm Bill field hearings.

Visit my website at www.house.gov/moranks01/ for times and locations and to stay up-to-date on tour stops that are still being scheduled.
Raising Money for Cancer Research with Hays High School DECA
Robba and I participated in a Relay for Life event Saturday to raise money for cancer research. We walked in the event sponsored by the Hays High School Distributive Education Clubs of America to raise money for research and programs for the American Cancer Society.
In the Office
In my office this week with KJIL radio of Meade were Delvin Kinser and Michael Luskey. They were in Washington, D.C. attending the National Prayer breakfast. On Tuesday, Tom Page of Wichita and Richard Edlund of Kansas City from the National Federation of the Blind were in to discuss the importance of accessibility to Braille textbooks, the need to create more employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired and the possibility of legislation to create a Louis Braille Commemorative Coin.



Very	truly	yours,
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Jerry